14.	Shri G.N. Shashidharan	DDG (Signals), Ministry of Defence
15.	Shri R. Rajagopalan	Ambassador of India to Morocco
16.	Shri N.J. Gangte	First Secretary, Embassy of India, Morocco
17.	Shri R. Kumar	Counsellor, PMI, Geneva

Operation of illegal telephone exchanges

238. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal telephone exchanges had been found operating clandestinely in the capital; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what was the modus operandi thereof;

(c) the approximate loss caused to the exchequer since their inception; and

(d) the action taken against the accused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The year-wise number of cases are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The modus operandi for operating such illegal exchanges in Statement- II (*See* below).

(c) The estimated loss to Department of Telecom/VSNL, other International Long Distance operators as well as MTNL is given in Statement - III (*See* Below).

(d) Legal proceedings have been initiated against the accused by Delhi Police/CBI.

Statement - I

Year-wise details of the cases detected during last four years

1998-1999	4 Exchanges
1999-2000	3 Exchanges
2000-2001	12 and 5 EPABX Exchanges
2001-2002	11 Exchanges

Statement-II

The calls were being made by using the following devices:—

(i) Satellite Dish Antenna.

(ii) Internal leased lines.

(iii) International private leased circuits.

(iv) Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) lines.

(v) Installation & operation EPABXs without containing MTNL Junctions and licences.

The subscribers in foreign countries are purchasing pre-paid cards from Private Companies and after dialing toll-free number use illegal media equipment like Satellite Dish Antenna, Internal Leased Line, International Private Leased Circuits, ISDN lines which absorbs country code and sends only local digits to their counterpart in India on which PSTN lines are terminated illegally.

Statement -III

The estimated loss to Department of Telecom/VSNL, other International Long Distance Operators as well as MTNL

(1) Loss to Department of Telecom/VSNL — Rs.110 Crores Appx.

(2) Loss to other licenced International Long Distance operators — Rs.1 Crores Appx.

(3) Loss to MTNL Delhi Through EPABXs — Rs. 45 Lakhs Appx.